

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 SP-02 USIA-06
AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /106 W
-----161513Z 064515 /46

R 161414Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9129
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT RESCINDS AUTOMATIC CHECKOFF
OF UNION DUES

1. BY DECREE (NO. 385), THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT HAS RESCINDED THE PROVISIONS OF LAW OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS BY PROVIDING FOR OBLIGATORY CHECKOFF BY MANAGEMENT OF UNION DUES IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE WORKER WAS A MEMBER OF THE UNION OR NOT. THE NEW DECREE ESTABLISHES THAT UNIONS ENJOYING TRADE UNION RECOGNITION WILL SUPPLY EMPLOYERS WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP LISTS NO LATER THAN APRIL 10 AND THAT, BEGINNING MAY 1, EMPLOYERS MAY NOT CHECK OFF A WORKER'S UNION DUES UNLESS THEY HAVE RECEIVED THE WORKER'S INDIVIDUAL CONFIRMATION THAT HE IS A UNION MEMBER AND HAS AUTHORIZED SUCH CHECK OFF OF UNION DUES.

2. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE DECREE HAS BEEN ISSUED SEPARATELY AND IN ADVANCE OF THE JUNTA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BASIC GUIDELINES FOR OVERHAULING THE LAW OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. THE CHECKOFF QUESTION HAS BEEN AN INTRINSIC PART OF THE DEBATE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES CONCERNING THE REFORM OF THE LAW OF PROFESSIONAL
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ASSOCIATIONS. ACCORDING TO USUALLY WELL-INFORMED PRESS SOURCES, THE NEW DECREE CONSTITUTES EVIDENCE THAT THE LONG-AWAITED GUIDELINES WILL BE RELEASED SOON BY THE JUNTA. ACCORDING TO THIS LINE OF INFORMATION, THE NAVY'S POSITION WILL BE THE PREVAILING ONE WITH REGARD TO THE KEY ISSUE OVER TRADE UNION RECOGNITION. THE NAVY HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR RECOGNITION ONLY OF SO-CALLED "FIRST DEGREE" UNION ORGANIZATIONS, THE IS, TRADE UNION

LOCALS AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL, WHEREAS THE ARMY HAS SUPPORTED THE RECOGNITION OF FEDERATIONS AND CONFEDERATIONS (INCLUDING THE CGT), AS WELL AS OF UNION LOCALS. THE NAVY'S PROPOSAL DESCRIBED AT FURTHER LENGTH IN A MEMCON WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT THIS WEEK. CURIOUSLY, HOWEVER, A NAVY SOURCE TOLD US THA THE NAVY WAS SUPPORTING AN "AGENCY SHOP" PROVISION, WHEREAS THE DECREE JUST PASSED APPEARS TO MAKE NO PROVISION FOR AGENCY SHOP.

3. LAST WEEK, ONE OF THE TWO UNDERSECRETARIES OF LABOR, A NAVY CAPTAIN, TOLD US THAT THE GUIDELINES FOR THE BASIC TRADE UNION LAW WERE HOPELESSLY BOTTLED UP IN THE JUNTA BECAUSE OF THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE NAVY. THE CAPTAIN, WHO IS NOW IN GENEVA REPRESENTING THE GOA AT THE GOVERNING BODY SESSION OF THE ILO, COMPLAINED TO JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MASSERA ABOUT THE DELETERIOUS EFFECT WHICH CONTINUING IMPASSE WAS HAVING ON THE GOA'S LABOR IMAGE ABROAD. PERHAPS, THE CAPTAIN'S INITIATIVE WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN HE IMAGINED AT THE TIME, BUT WE SHOULD NOTE THAT PREVIOUS REPORTS ABOUT THE IMPENDING PASSAGE OF THE BASIC UNION GUIDELINES HAVE PROVEN PREMATURE THUS FAR. NEVERTHELESS, AN ARMY SOURCE WHO WORKS IN THE UNION AREA HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT THE GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE JUNTA AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THE NEXT JUNTA MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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